

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114163

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, BB

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER RECEIVES CREDENTIALS FROM
AMBASSADOR JACKMAN

1. BARBADIAN AMBASSADOR JACKMAN PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS
TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON MAY 16. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY,
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD A FIVE-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH THE
AMBASSADOR. ALSO PRESENT WERE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
BRZEZINSKI AND ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS.

2. THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE CONVERSATION DISCUSSING
AMBASSADOR JACKMAN'S EFFORT TO COMPLETE HIS LAW STUDIES
IN TRINIDAD. FOLLOWING THE AMENITIES, PRESIDENT CARTER
SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FIND PROBLEMS IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT WHATEVER SMALL
PROBLEMS MIGHT HAVE EXISTED IN THE PAST WERE OVERTAKEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 114163

BY THE HOPE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT
CARTER'S ASSUMING OFFICE. AMBASSADOR JACKMAN SAID THAT
HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESIDENT'S
POLICIES AND HAD NOTED PARTICULARLY, IN THE SPEECH TO THE
OAS, THE STRESS PLACED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE POS-
SIBILITY OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN NATIONS. HIS
GOVERNMENT ALSO NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS THAT THE US

WOULD GIVE A SPECIAL PLACE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH GOVERN-

MENTS SUCH AS BARBADOS WHICH ARE DEMOCRACIES AND WHICH SHARE THE UNITED STATES VALUES.

3. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT THE PAST ADMINISTRATION HAD SEEMED TO TREAT THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE AS ONE GROUP. THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL SEEK TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE AND ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH EACH ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT BARBADOS PLACES A HIGH VALUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTICED THE HIGHER STANDARDS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT BARBADOS IS PROUD OF ITS RECORD.

4. THE PRESIDENT ASKED WHETHER BARBADOS WAS SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE IT WAS GETTING FROM REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS. AMBASSADOR JACKMAN REPLIED THAT BARBADOS WAS REASONABLY SATISFIED. IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, BUT LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES WAS SUFFERING FROM THE LOW PRICE OF SUGAR AND HIGH IMPORT COSTS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HOPED OUR NEW POLICY OF STABILIZING US SUGAR PRICES WOULD BE HELPFUL TO FOREIGN SUGAR PRODUCERS. THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WANTED THE AMBASSADOR TO KNOW THAT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING BARBADOS WANTED WHERE HE COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE THAT THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD LET THE PRESIDENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE KNOW.

5. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS PRIME MINISTER WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 114163

HOPING TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES LATER THIS YEAR AND WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN MORE DEPTH. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS AGREEABLE TO SUCH A MEETING AND ASKED TO BE INFORMED WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WAS VISITING THE UNITED STATES. CHRISTOPHER

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